

# BULLETIN

## CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

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### "The Extinct Orphan

"To the Editor of 'THE NATION':

"Sir: Are there any bona fide orphans extant? My wife and I desire to adopt an orphan of decent parentage (age three to seven) or two, if they are of the same family. We visited a home in this county where there are 110 children, only two of whom are orphans. The rest are semi- or 'divorced' orphans. The majority are Italians whose parents regard the Orphanage as a kind of college—probably it is. It is amazing what an enormous number of children ought to be orphans. I shall be grateful for information.

"ALBERT FARR."

From "THE NATION," New York, Nov. 8, 1923.

### TO MEMBERS:

#### THE GROUP MOVEMENTS COMMITTEE AND THE AMERICAN LEGION

THE report of this Committee to the Executive Committee at its meeting in Chicago pictured somewhat the possible service the League can perform in assisting non-professional children's organizations to formulate their programs along modern lines.

When the Committee was organized a year ago the possibilities of service were unknown. From the experience of a year it appears that a real service may be rendered.

Some information has been gathered about many projects under consideration or actually being undertaken by fraternal and religious groups. Religious bodies in Pennsylvania, Ohio, New York; fraternal groups in New York, North Carolina; the American Legion and the Brotherhood of American Yeomen, in a national way, all have programs more or less definitely in mind.

The closest and therefore most useful contact has been with the American Legion. As soon as the Legion was apprised of what we are equipped to do requests came for information, statistics and discussion of possible programs. The Secretary of the Committee made several extended trips to confer with Legion men in New York State, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Ohio, Kansas, New Jersey, Washington State, Massachusetts; and in Minnesota, Georgia, Massachusetts and Illinois certain of our

members have served in similar conference and advisory capacities. It is interesting to note that these states have all taken stands for progressive methods of care and many of them have made such recommendations to the National Convention. The receptivity and open-mindedness of practically all the responsible Legion men we had contact with was very marked. There was no offishness, due either to suspicion of social workers or jealousy of their own announced preserve.

The program is of such interest that we publish it as adopted at the San Francisco Convention in October:

"WHEREAS, by mandate of the Fourth National Convention of the American Legion, there was appointed a National Children's Welfare Committee, which has made thorough investigation into this subject during the past year, and after full consideration have made certain recommendations: and

"WHEREAS, The American Legion since its inception has been working for better citizenship and to that end desires to co-operate with all approved public and private agencies engaged in child welfare work; therefore be it

"Resolved, First. That The American Legion formally acknowledge its duty and responsibility toward the care, education and training of the dependent orphaned children of all service men.

"Second. That the National Children's Welfare Committee, which has been investigating this subject for the past year, be continued for the coming year for the purpose of completing their investigation and carrying on this work under the direction of the National Executive Committee.

"Third. That there be organized in each state department a committee to be known as 'The Children's Welfare Committee,' which shall co-operate with the National Children's Welfare Committee.

"Fourth. Whenever conditions permit, the integrity of the home shall be maintained in order that the children of the same family be kept together and left in the care of their own mother, and to this end we recommend the enactment of adequate 'mothers' pension laws.'

"Fifth. Where it is impossible for children to be maintained in their own homes, and after most careful and thorough examination and investigation of all surrounding circumstances where it is found that individual children seem adapted and appear to fit into the home life of certain families who desire to care for them, such children shall be placed in foster homes. This shall be done only when the Legion is in a position, through local posts or otherwise, to effectively and carefully fol-

low up such children and families and thus safeguard their welfare.

"Sixth. That provision be made for the construction, maintenance and operation of regional home schools that may be used as clearing houses to take care of children who cannot be cared for in their own homes and foster homes or in other ways provided, the establishment of such regional home schools to be fostered by the Legion and carried on either by the individual departments or by groups of departments as the needs develop and funds are made available. That such regional home schools be organized on what is generally known as the 'cottage plan' and in line with the best practice and experience governing the organization and construction of such cottage homes.

"Seventh. The National Children's Welfare Committee be empowered to accept and use all contributions, money, land, service and other gifts for these purposes; provided, however, that the acceptance of such gifts and contributions does not limit the American Legion and the use thereof against the best interests of the children to be served.

"Eighth. The offer of co-operation made by La Societe des 40 Homes et 8 Chevaux be heartily accepted, the details of such co-operation to be worked out jointly.

"Respectfully submitted,

"INTERNAL ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE."

We are consulting members of the Children's Committee as to the most acceptable form in which co-operation can be offered and will inform our members of any special points.

### TUBERCULOSIS IN CHILDHOOD

In the "Nation's Health," of July, 1923, we read—

"Comby's figures on the rate at which tuberculosis is found in children less than two years of age are thought-arresting. Comby records no cases occurring before the age of one month; 2.5 per cent. of his cases occur between the age of one and two months; 3.33 per cent. between two and three months; 15.15 per cent. from three to six months; 25.86 per cent. from six to twelve months; and 46.05 per cent. between twelve and twenty-four months.

"Hoffa since 1919 has made it a routine to do a Pirquet reaction on all children admitted to the hospital at Barmen. The results from May, 1919, to December, 1921, inclusive, are as follows:

Age	Percentage positive
0- 3 years.....	25.7
1- 6 years.....	39.9
7-10 years.....	50.5
11-14 years.....	63.1

"Familial contagion is the dominant factor in a large proportion of cases and, as might be expected, a tuberculous mother is far more dangerous in this respect than is a father having tuberculosis. Thus L. Ribadeau-Dumas states that the mortality of children with a

phthisical mother is 33.5 per cent., while among those having a tuberculous father it is only 14.7 per cent. Indirect infection by articles contaminated with tuberculous sputum is always possible but probably does not play any great rôle as compared with direct contact with an active case of tuberculosis.

"It seems as if the foregoing facts indicate fairly definitely that the point of election in the prevention of tuberculosis is the period of childhood. Since the origin in the bulk of cases is familial, every effort must be made to isolate infants from open tuberculosis cases, whether other children or adults. To do this effectively, it is first necessary to know where these cases are, then to determine whether or not they are in contact with children, particular attention being paid to infants. It should be recognized that the open case of tuberculosis is a menace to society, since it is dangerous to the oncoming generation, and society should provide the means and the authority whereby children may be taken out of such an environment or the tuberculous person be removed therefrom."

### THE PROTECTION OF GIRLS IN RAPE PROSECUTIONS

The Legislature of Massachusetts has this year passed an Act which reads as follows:

"At the trial of a complaint or indictment for rape, incest, carnal abuse or other crime involving sex, where a minor under seventeen years of age is the person upon, with or against whom the crime is alleged to have been committed, or at the trial of a complaint or indictment for bastardy, where the mother of the child whose paternity is in question is such a minor, the presiding justice shall, if said trial is before a district court, or may, if before the superior court, exclude the general public from the court room, admitting only such persons as may have a direct interest in the case."

Gradually our communities and our law officers are becoming aware of the menace that the present procedure in prosecution presents to the minor upon whose testimony the case is mainly based.

In the same state Probate Courts have been given authority to appoint salaried guardians *ad litem* on matters involving minors. This makes the investigation of guardianships and adoptions possible by persons responsible to the court only.

### THE CHILD PROTECTIVE FUNCTION IN SOCIAL WORK

Work with dependent and neglected children includes principally two functions: that of child protection and of child-care.

The work of most of the agencies that are considered children's agencies falls under one or the other of these heads and sometimes agencies undertake both kinds of work.

It has been the tendency in the development of children's work to push efforts for protection back from the obvious to the less patent, from the circumstances connecting with break-down to the stage of prevention.

The children's protective agencies were a generation ago, and many of them are still, concerned principally with the offense that has been committed, but the more modern methods of undertaking work in child protection are concerning themselves increasingly with work for its prevention. Not only societies for the prevention of cruelty to children and juvenile courts are taking an active part in this program but other agencies not formally organized for child protection take part in it. One of the most important agencies working for child protection is that of the visiting teacher, whose services may often be drawn upon by families in the early and preventive stages of trouble.

The humane societies have in a great many instances failed to modernize their programs and other agencies not organized for child protection have in certain communities taken the program over. It is important that workers with children should in each community consider what agency is the most effective one to use in child protection work and to co-ordinate that work into the general program of child-care.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Executive Committee of the League met at the Chicago Beach Hotel in Chicago, October 11 and 12. All of the members were present except four who were detained by illness or absence from the country. A great volume of work was accomplished and a full report of this will be made in the next monthly bulletin.

#### VICIOUS MAGAZINES

The following editorial from the "Journal of Social Hygiene," of October, 1923, will have the agreement of every children's worker:

"Several recent periodicals have called attention to the passing of the dime novel,—the lurid-covered 'Dead-eye Dick,' 'Nick Carter,' and 'Jesse James' thrillers which, in former days, when concealed in the pages of a geography, distracted many a boy's thoughts from the boundaries of Peru or the height of Mt. Himalaya. Perhaps their influence was not of the best but it seems doubtful that it could be as pernicious as that of many of the present-day crop of tawdry and vicious short-story magazines which are displayed on the news stands.

"Once again Dick's trusty revolver blazed forth; six more redskins bit the dust!" Not exactly the finest sort of literature for a growing boy, but was it as harmful as the sex-steeped, aphrodisiac, poorly-written rub-

bish which may be found today within the covers of the type of magazine classed as 'spicy'?

"The steady increase in the number of such publications indicates that a profitable clientèle exists for them, and many observers have noted the widespread distribution of these magazines among young and impressionable boys and girls. Their stories, unsound in logic and unreal in structure, often glorify sex promiscuity and picture the rewards of vice as of far greater value than those of virtue. Chivalry and decency are dealt with as attributes to be derided; to be 'wise' is held up as the one most desirable goal, this 'wisdom' being defined as that of the libertine.

"Social-hygiene and other organizations looking toward public betterment are wakening to the dangers of these publications. Both in the United States and Canada, parents, educators, religious leaders, and others of influence in their communities are meeting to discuss ways and means by which their publishers may be forced either to clean up or go out of business. The one best method probably is to make them unprofitable. Your newsdealer will not long continue to carry wares against which an important portion of his customers protest. You and your fellow townspeople would not purchase your roasts and chops from a butcher who carried tainted meat along with the good. Why not apply the same principle to your purchase of mental food?"

#### CORRECTION

In the article on crippled children in the August BULLETIN, reference was incorrectly made to "The Rotarian" of October, 1922. The reference should have been to the "Journal of the American Medical Association," October 14, 1922, in which is printed the article "Progress in the Care and Education of Crippled Children in Ohio, Under New Laws," by Burt G. Chollett, M.D., Toledo, Ohio.

#### CHILD WELFARE NEWS

The growth of social work in the schools has had the effect of creating a demand for visiting teachers that have been trained particularly for such work. Miss Anna B. Pratt, Director of the White-Williams Foundation, Philadelphia, read a paper at the Washington meeting of the National Conference of Social Work on "Courses of Training for Visiting Teachers" which has been published and is a very valuable discussion on the subject.

Large numbers of Serbian orphans have been "adopted" by American families. The Serbian Ministry of Child Welfare agrees to safeguard the interest of these American "adopted" Serbian children.

The Office of the Public Welfare Commissioner of the Philippine Islands publishes an occasional "Welfare



Courier." A recent number tells about the "clean-up week" campaigns in the Island.

The National Association of Travelers Aid Societies has just issued "A Report of Progress" which should interest our members, showing, as it does, the remarkable increase of service its local units are offering, in many cases to children. In the first nine months of this year twenty new members applied for admission, Travelers Aid Societies were organized in five cities and re-organized in five more. In twelve cities preliminary surveys have been made looking toward organization, and many communities have been advised on this problem through consultation. In general the increase of service over the last year has been 84 per cent.

The American Child Health Association held its annual meeting in Detroit, October 15-17, when its President, the Hon. Herbert Hoover, and Mr. Courtney Dinwiddie, General Executive, reported on the year's work. The complete text of these reports is found in the November "Mother and Child," along with affiliated society reports from many states concerning health undertakings. The program of the Association next year continues its demonstrations and begins demonstrations in three new localities, North Dakota, Tennessee and Georgia. Special service is being organized to co-operate on the basis of self-help in communities, several of which applied unsuccessfully for the demonstrations.

The third item of the program involves the working out of standards by which the efficiency of communities in child health may be more accurately measured than hitherto.

In general this number is worthy of considerable study.

Many organizations are lending support to the movement for a constitutional amendment to deal with the matter of child labor, since it is apparently impossible for Congress to frame a law without such special authority. Among these are the American Federation of Labor at its annual convention, the American Legion at its recent convention in San Francisco, and the National Council of Catholic Women meeting in Washington. The resolutions passed by the last named body are representative and worth quoting:

"WHEREAS, the inveterate refusal of some States to enact laws for the prohibition of child labor inflicts grave injuries upon tens of thousands of young children in

those States and causes unfair hardship to employers in States which have good child labor laws, and

"WHEREAS, the only way in which this evil can be remedied within a reasonable time lies through National legislation, therefore

"Be it resolved, That the National Council of Catholic Women favors an amendment to the Federal Constitution which will empower Congress to enact such legislation, but which will not prohibit any State from enacting a law of higher standards than required by the Federal legislation enacted subsequent to the passing of such a constitutional amendment. The exact form of this amendment should be determined upon in conference with other interested groups."

The various publications from which quotations are made are generally on file in this office and may be procured for fuller study.

## ENCLOSURES

(Sent to members only)

The enclosures for this month are as follows:

1. September number of the "Modern Samaritan," published by the Wisconsin Children's Home Society.
2. Pamphlet entitled "The Runabouts (Children from Two to Six Years) in the House of Health," published by the American Child Health Association.
3. Editorial from October 6, 1923, issue of "Collier's Weekly," urging the American Legion to make careful plans for its children's program.

## DIRECTORY CHANGES

CONNECTICUT.—Connecticut Children's Aid Society, Hartford. Mr. Ralph Barrow, Executive Secretary, to succeed Miss Julia M. Hinaman, resigned.

NEW YORK.—Home Bureau of Hebrew Sheltering Guardian Society, New York City. Offices moved to 141 W. 126th Street.

Department of Child Welfare of Westchester County, White Plains. Miss Gladys Fisher, Director, to succeed Miss Ruth Taylor, resigned.

OHIO.—Children's Aid Department of Social Service Federation, Toledo. Name changed to Children's Bureau.

WISCONSIN.—Juvenile Department, State Board of Control, Madison. Dr. Maybelle M. Park, resigned.

Wisconsin Children's Home Society, Milwaukee. Offices moved to 423 M and M Bank Bldg.